



PRMI Terminology Issues – NCI Thesaurus

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Background

- CTEP (Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program)
 - Funds extensive program of national cancer research including Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program
 - Develops new treatments through collaboration with oncology research community and pharmaceutical/biotechnology industry



Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program

- Est. 1955, funded through research grants
- Southwest Oncology Group is member
- Purpose: to develop definitive studies of combined modality approaches for the treatment of cancer
- Participation from thousands of investigators who in 2002 accrued over 27000 patients to Group lead treatment studies



Common Data Elements

- Collaborative effort between the Cooperative Groups and NCI
- Address the needs of end-users
- Format for system designers to incorporate terms into legacy databases
- Standardize queries on case report forms and valid values as responses



Section I: Use of NCI Thesaurus

- Used to standardize query terminology and valid values for clinical content domain areas of:
 - Laboratory results
 - History and physical examination
 - Agent administration
 - Surgical and radiological techniques
 - Adverse event reporting



Strengths: NCI Thesaurus

- Promotes creation of elements that are meaningful to end-users such as research nurses, clinical research associates and data managers
- Frequent update cycles of the vocabulary to reflect the dynamic nature of clinical research



Section II: Implementation of Terminology

- Applied use of a controlled vocabulary in a remote data capture system
- Map terms in reference libraries of Cooperative Group systems to CDEs
- Provides data element concepts and valid value domains



Suggestions to NCVHS

- Terminology selection criteria should strongly consider the actual use potential to bridge the gap between a vocabulary repository and the implementation of these vocabularies in clinical settings
- The utility of a standardized vocabulary can only be tested when implemented in an end-user application